

Klein-Naegelin House
511 South Seguin Avenue
(Between San Antonio and Coll Sts.)
New Braunfels
Comal County
Texas

HABS No. TEX 33A-10

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

THE NAEGELIN HOUSE
137 SEGUIN STREET
NEW BRAUNFELS, COMAL CO., TEXAS

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The present owner and occupant of the house is Edward Naegelin.

Mr. Naegelin's father bought the house in 1878, and the family has lived in the house ever since. Edward Naegelin bought out the other heirs after his father's death and obtained full possession of the house, over a period of years.

The elder Naegelin put the present tin roof on the building, and put in the ceilings, after he obtained possession. The old roof was shingle, and there were no ceilings. This work was done by a builder, Otto Heilig, who later became postmaster of New Braunfels.

The builder of the original house was one of two carpenters who settled in New Braunfels with the original colonists in 1845. These two carpenters were named Meinas and Klingemann. The house was one of the first residences to be erected in the colony, according to Mr. Harry Mergele, of New Braunfels.

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Approved Marvin Eickhardt

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DATA NOT COMPILED AND NOT GUARANTEED
BY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. TEX 33A-10

KLEIN-NAEGELIN HOUSE

Location: At 511 South Seguin Avenue between San Antonio and
Coll Streets
New Braunfels
Comal County
Texas
Latitude: 29° 41' 56" N Longitude: 98° 07' 11" W

Present Owner: Clinton Naegelin

Present Occupant
and Use: Unoccupied

Statement of
Significance: A "Fachwerk" house, one of the earliest remaining
in the city. One of the original settlers of New
Braunfels, Stephan Klein, acquired the lot in 1845
and the following year built the house. Since 1877
it has been owned by Edward Naegelin and his descen-
dants. It is recorded as a Texas Historical Land-
mark under the name, "Stephen Klein House".

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Physical History:

1. General History: In 1842 the "Verein zum Schutz deutscher Einwanderer in Texas" (Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas), was formed in Germany. Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels, director of the Verein, had purchased a large remote tract north of the Llano River, but when the first scheduled settlers began arriving in Texas Ports in July 1844, it was quite urgent to acquire a location nearer to the coast. A small tract was purchased at the junction of the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers. The first settlers arrived there in March 1845, and the town was named Neu (New) Braunfels. The earliest homes were built of logs in the typical American manner, but soon the townspeople began employing their skilled craftsmen to build better houses of "Fachwerk" or of brick or stone, using the construction methods of their original homeland.
2. Ownership of the Property: In 1845 by allotment Stephan Klein acquired from the Verein Lot No. 41, the site of the present house. This house was probably built during the following year. His heirs, five children, sold the house

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and lot in 1858. After several changes in ownership, it was sold by Carl Floege to Edward Naegelin in 1877. Apparently the Naegelin family had lived in the house near their bakery beginning in 1874 and it continued to be their home for many decades. It is still owned by Edward's grandson, Clinton Naegelin.

3. Date of Erection: About 1846.
4. Builder: No definite information is available, but evidently the builder was an immigrant carpenter trained in the traditional construction methods of the German homeland.
5. Persons Connected with the Structure: Stephan Klein, born at Hattenheim, Germany, came to Texas on the ship "Herschel" in 1844, and arrived, along with the earliest settlers, in New Braunfels, the following year. When the city lots were parceled out, he drew No. 41 on Seguin Street not far from the central square, and there he built the small house. About the same year, in 1846, he was elected to the first Comal County Commission.

Edward Naegelin was born at Hirschfelden, Alsace in 1844. His parents, Michael and Magdalene Naegelin, brought him to America in 1846. As a young man he fought in the Civil War; then following the war he opened a bakery with a partner in San Antonio. He came to New Braunfels in 1868 and started a bakery in the Goldenbagen House on Seguin Avenue near Mill Street, and three years later married Franziska Seekatz. The house where the family lived for many years was purchased in 1877. Next door to the house is a building bought earlier by Naegelin, in 1874, and which has been the location of the Naegelin family bakery since that date. The founder, Edward Naegelin, died in 1923.

C. Bibliography:

Bieseke, Dr. R. L., History of the Early German Settlements in Texas, 1830-1960. Austin, Texas: Von Boeckmann-Jones, 1930.

Haas, Oscar, The History of New Braunfels and Comal County, 1844-1946. Austin, Texas: The Steck Company, 1968.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: One of the earliest remaining houses built in the city, its simple form and "Fachwerk" construction is characteristic of the structures built by the early German settlers.
2. Condition of the Fabric: Although the owner has expressed a desire to preserve the house, it has been neglected in recent years and now needs repair.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: A one-story house, 20'-8" x 28'-2" in plan dimensions.
2. Walls: Heavy-timber (Fachwerk) framing with nogging of stone, plastered on the exterior, badly cracked in places.
3. Porch: The porch across the front of the house has five squared, bevelled, wood columns. The posts and wood floor are in need of repair.
4. Chimneys: There was a brick chimney that served the dining room and kitchen areas; it no longer extends above the roof.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doors: Wood, four panels.
 - b. Windows: Double-hung, six-over-six lights. There are louvered shutters on the front windows.
6. Roof: A ridge roof covered with corrugated sheetmetal. From the form and structure of the roof it appears that the original house was two rooms, about 10' x 28' overall; later the front porch and rear kitchen were added, each with a shed roof, with pitches lower than the central roof. Rafters are cedar, roughly squared.

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C. Description of the Interiors:

1. Floor Plan: Rectangular with a bedroom and small dining room near the front and a long, narrow kitchen on the rear. The entire space is now used for storage.
2. Flooring: Floors are of yellow pine, wide boards random sized.
3. Walls and Ceiling: Walls are plastered, badly cracked. Exposed ceiling joists are beaded. In the kitchen the shed rafters are exposed.

- D. Site: The original lot had a depth of 192' and a street frontage of 96'. The porch on the front, southwest side of the house is close to the sidewalk of the street. The two-story Naegelin Bakery building is immediately to the northwest.

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